

March 13, 2012

To the Labor Committee,

In support of S.B. 352

My name is Denise Gaston; I have been working with children for 30 years, and I offer this testimony in support of S.B. 352. I was first licensed as day care provider in Frankfurt, Germany in the early 80's and then at a child development center in Babenhausen, Germany. After Germany, my family and I came back to the US in 1992 and I was employed at Kids Corner located in Hartford, Connecticut for a few years before opening up my own home day care.

I opened my own home day care in 1996 in Manchester, Connecticut. The most important reason why I chose to open a home day care was to give good quality childcare to those who could not afford a day care center. Not everyone realizes that it takes love, skill, and education to be a day care provider. Having love for what you do and nurturing children is very important in this business. Children are one of our national treasures.

All children need support and guidance. We are the start of their future and as a nation we need to make sure they are happy, healthy and loved.

Since there are so many ups and downs in this day care business, providers need to be protected just like how we protect the children in our care. We are hoping that the union will provide that for us.

Sincerely,

Denise Gaston
Manchester, CT